

Maine



Technology



A publication featuring the Information Services technology of Maine State Government

Maine Most Wanted.com

BY COMMANDER RICK DESJARDINS
BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPT.

Will you help us solve a crime? You are the key to helping law enforcement identify one of Maine's most wanted criminals. Maine law enforcement has long struggled with the inability to quickly solve crimes because vital information – such as mug shots – is not usually disseminated broadly. Unidentified criminals are able to re-offend and are more likely to elude capture. Take a look at www.mainemostwanted.com. If you recognize a person, and alert police you are making a real difference in your community!

Although the Internet has become an integral part of many of our lives, the total extent of its potential uses has yet to be discovered. This new website will allow us to use the Internet to make connections to potential witnesses, and bring the law enforcement community to a place where they can jointly, and more efficiently, solve crimes. Getting this site established has taken the hard work of many individuals and groups. The FBI National Academy Associates, Brunswick Police and Maine Community Policing Institute were some of the many organizations that made this site possible.

How does this all work? When a law enforcement agency has a particular case that has an image or rendering of an unknown suspect,

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Mapping Website for Surveyors

BY CINDY OWINGS

For some time employees of the Maine Department of Transportation's (DOT) Information Systems Division had been looking for a way to provide internet mapping functionality to our internal users and the public. In 2002, ESRI¹ released their ArcIMS mapping services software, a technology deemed advanced enough for MaineDOT to move ahead in this direction.



The Information Systems Division was chosen to develop an application for the Maine DOT Photogrammetry and Control Unit (PCU) that would be available to internal project development employees and the general public, specifically targeting surveyors throughout the state who often call MaineDOT for control point information in the field.

Maine DOT took an unusual approach and decided that this project would be developed using a "technology transfer" contract with ESRI. Early in the project, Andrew Hite, a technical support person from ESRI, was introduced to the MaineDOT programmers assigned to the project, and together they formed the team of developers to produce the Survey Control application. Because of its compatibility with ArcIMS and Oracle, and the desire to train programmers with this skill, Java was the language chosen for the customization of this ArcIMS Image Server application.

In this application, like most applications, data is at the heart of the matter. For this application ArcSDE data is used from both MeGIS and MaineDOT SDE servers to display information on the web page. ArcSDE is a geographic application server that uses the leading commercial database management systems (DBMS) to store vector, raster, and survey data. By using SDE, MaineDOT has the ability to use data that is not

maintained at MaineDOT; this data is important for presenting the desired map presentation for the interface of the application.

This is also the first time MaineDOT has implemented a solution using Oracle Spatial. Why Oracle Spatial? Maine DOT prefers to not be locked into using a vendor specific product for all applications that need to use spatial data. There are potentially many applications that can use a spatial type query without the users requiring a map interface. For instance finding lists of addresses for labeling within an area is possible without using an ESRI product if your data is stored in Oracle Spatial.

An Oracle user can query the database using spatial data operators such as: "Adjacent to", "Within a distance of", "Contained by", "Intersecting with" or "Buffer around a feature".

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Maine Most Wanted.com, cont.

the investigator simply logs onto the web site, completes a form, and electronically sends the information for posting. Once the data is cleared through the site administrator, the case (image and description) is placed on the site for all to see. If a person reading the case has information believed to be helpful, they simply click on "report a tip" and an instant connection to the investigator takes place. The person reporting the tip can stay anonymous and give information without fear of being identified.

Who will use the site? We are modeling this site after www.massmostwanted.com, which has seen a wide range of users including federal, state and local law enforcement. It has also been common for correction staff (e.g. prison guards) to review the site, and often they recognize unknown suspects as inmates, which makes for an easy identification.

A key component of the site is the use by the public. Many cases solved to date on the www.maine-mostwanted.com site have been solved with the help of Maine citizens. In one case, a family member who noticed a relative on the site, called to report information about the offender to police. In this case, it was clear that the offender was in dire need of help, and needed to be caught before they got into more serious trouble.

Who will this benefit? Everyone except criminals! Clearly, law enforcement has a huge potential to reap benefits from getting cases solved. In addition, the public will also benefit from the ability to see what is going on, and track cases in their community. This technology has a real potential for solving many crimes that would otherwise go unsolved.

Moving forward with this type of innovation makes perfect sense for Maine. We welcome any comments about the program and hope to see more of this type of collaboration in the future of Maine's law enforcement.

Questions? Contact either Brunswick Police Department's Commander Rick Desjardins, by calling 207-725-5521 X 102 or Crime Analyst Wendy Kierstead by calling 207-725-5521 X 143. Both may also be contacted at the following address: 28 Federal Street, Brunswick ME 04011.

Mapping Website for Surveyors, cont.

Since these spatial operators are just extensions to SQL they can be used in any application that accesses Oracle Spatial. This provides flexibility to MaineDOT to develop and purchase applications that support spatial querying without the necessity to use sophisticated GIS software, and then in turn, the expense of licensing for that software is also reduced.

The original process used ArcView 3.x, a Microsoft Access database for the presentation layer and Oracle for the data storage. The new Application utilizes ArcMap 8.1, ArcIMS 4.1, ArcSDE, Microsoft Access, Oracle Spatial, and Oracle Reports. Oracle Reports was chosen for its ability to produce multiple types of output from one report specification. Minor changes in the Microsoft Access presentation layer were required to point the forms and reports to the new RDMS. The availability of the control points data and reports on the web will save the PCU hours of time producing and mailing paper reports.

When asked about the benefits of this website, Tim LeSiege, an engineer with PCU, replied, "The creation of the control web page has benefited the Department and the surveying profession immensely" ... "With the advent of the page, the surveyors and engineers can now visit the site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and not have to try to call during Department business hours in hopes of reaching one of the few employees who have traditionally provided this service. Most of the surveyors have already

learned about the web page and are actively using it!" According to LeSiege, the unit will see at least a \$12,500 annual savings by freeing up the time of the employees who previously served the public requests.

The following are part of the developer's toolbox for this application: Java, JDeveloper, XML, Technology Transfer Contract with ESRI, Oracle Reports Developer and Oracle 9iAS Enterprise Manager. The result of all these different technologies working together can be seen at Maine DOT's first internet mapping web page: <http://mainedot.maine.gov/survey>.

The Information Systems Division plans to leverage the investment in learning to apply these various technologies by creating solutions for several other business needs using lessons learned from this project. Other potential internet mapping solutions include a utilities application for right-of-way work, an application to provide project locations data to the public, an internal data warehouse solution, a road-side spray application and the route-log-mile system for viewing road data.

Questions? Contact the author, who is a Programmer Analyst, by e-mailing cindy.owings@maine.gov. Cindy has worked for MaineDOT since 2000 and has been working for the Information Systems Division since May, 2001.

¹ Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. <http://www.esri.com/>



InforME Subscription Services May Be Free to Agencies

By RENEE LORING

eGovernment is transforming the way the public interacts with their government. With InforME eGovernment services, citizens, businesses and government agencies have convenient and fast access to electronic information and services.

Not only are InforME subscriber services offered to businesses and citizens, they are offered to Maine state agencies and municipalities as well. Many state agencies have already found these subscriber services a preferable way to interact with other agencies.

What can InforME do for you? We provide many services that may assist agencies in streamlining current business practices. Do you need to regularly run criminal background checks? How about obtaining drivers records, or vehicle title and registration records? With an InforME subscription account, these services are available through a single log-in. What's more, we waive the \$75.00 annual subscription fee for state and local government agencies. In addition to a free subscription, your agency account is non-billable. That's right: agencies are able to use most government services free of charge!

What on-line services are offered to InforME subscribers?

- Search Driving Records
- Driver Cross Check
- Search Registration Records
- Search Title Records
- Search Corporate Filings
- File Annual Reports
- Search UCC Filings
- File UCC Records
- Search Criminal Records

Because we want our customers to get the most out of their subscription, we've created an entire site to assist subscribers in managing their account. Information on this web site includes billing reports, service pricing, detailed service information, and a quarterly subscriber newsletter providing updates on important and helpful information.

Sign up is easy! Simply complete an electronic application and submit on-line. You will be instructed to print and sign our Service Agreement. Once we've received your signed Service Agreement, a username, password, and link to our services is delivered to the e-mail address provided on the application. Have more than one user for your subscriber account? No problem, we'll give you up to ten usernames and passwords per subscription account.

Don't delay ... sign up for your InforME subscription account at <http://www.informe.org/subscribe/subscribe.html>.

Questions? Contact an InforME customer service representative by calling 207.621.2600, or toll free 877.212.6500, or e-mailing info@informe.org.

Accessibility Committee

By KATHY RECORD

The Accessibility Committee's overarching objective in 2004 is to integrate accessibility into our everyday business processes and practices. It is recognized that, with ongoing budget constraints, many involved with deploying technology simply do not have time to take on any additional workload. That fact makes this effort even more critical because, when accessibility is simply a part of our regular business processes, it does not mean more work, it simply means we do it right the first time.

We will continue to move forward with the idea that through education and example, we will build our culture such that accessibility is no longer a mandate, but simply part of how Maine does business. We thank you for all the time and effort during the years you participated on the Committee and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to benefit from your expertise in the area of accessible technology.

In particular, the Accessibility Committee wishes to thank those who have served as full time members and will be moving into advisory capacities:

Richard B. Thompson, Chief Information Officer
Gil Whitmore, Department of Education
Laurie Wills, Department of Administrative and Financial Services
Betty Lamoreau, Division of Purchases
Jean Arbour, Division of Purchases
Mary K. Silva, Office of the CIO.

Questions? E-mail kathy.record@maine.gov.



Challenge

By LESTER DICKEY

April is the month for "fooling" around, and has been such since the seventeenth century. The French call it "poisson d'Avril" or "April Fish" for the poor victim of the joke.

Here are a couple of tricky ones for all you April Fish.

For a pizza (with anchovies?): If today is Monday April 9, what is the day after the day before the day before tomorrow, plus one day?

For no pizza or fish or anything else: Why do you call your ex-spouse's former daughter-in-law's first husband's daughter, "Sally"?

Please e-mail **Lester Dickey** with your answer and your name, phone number, and the organization for which you work. Or call **Barbara Buck** at 624-9501. The winner will be drawn from all the correct entries and will receive a **FREE** donated pizza, either from **CJ's Pizza** or from the **EDOC Cafeteria**. All answers must be in no later than the **14th** of the month.

Last month's challenge brought 110 submissions, with all being correct answers. The winner, chosen by random drawing, is **Irene Chandler** of **Rehab Services** in Bangor.

The answers to last month's Challenge http://www.state.me.us/newsletter/feb2004/challenge_for_february.htm: a) 9 1 was the answer to the first question and c) 11 0 was the answer to the second question.

Pulling Together with Workgroup Templates

By JEFF FRANKEL

The workgroup templates—weren't they a Seattle-based grunge band from the early '90s? Well, not exactly. But this oft-overlooked feature of Microsoft Office holds some real potential for productivity gains in many work units.

Workgroup templates, as the name suggests, are a form of template document. If you've never worked with templates, this bears a little explanation.

A template document is a form document meant to be opened, modified, and re-used again and again. The best analogy is a "While You Were Out" stationery pad. You scribble up a sheet, rip it off the pad, and have a near-endless supply for future use. Computer templates work the same way. After you open a template document in Word or Excel, add your own content, and save it, Office doesn't overwrite the template document that you started with. Instead, the Save As dialog box prompts you to save your document with a new name in a new location. That way, the template you started with survives unchanged in its pristine state, ready to be called upon the next time you need it.

Let's focus on Microsoft Word. To access the canned templates that are installed by default, select File ➤ New from Word's menu bar. Although different versions of Word behave differently, you'll eventually reach the Templates dialog box that displays the standard template collection (i.e., tabbed folders named General, Legal Pleadings, Letters and Faxes, Memos, etc.). Click a tab to view the template files in that category; double-click an icon to create a new document based on that template.

Savvy wordsmiths know that you can: (a) add additional template files to any of the standard tabbed folders, and (b) make your own, custom tabbed template folders to hold new categories of templates you've created for your own work. Once an employee goes to the trouble of hand-tooling a set of templates, the odds are high that he or she will eventually think, "Huh! These are pretty good. Dick, Jane and Sally might want to use these." But guess what—they can't. Templates that reside on one PC (or in a user's private folder on a network drive) aren't ordinarily visible by another PC. To share templates among a group of co-workers, they must be stored as workgroup templates on your Local Area Network (LAN).

There are any number of reasons why this may be desirable. Uniformity, professionalism, and elimination of redundant effort come quickly to mind. Ease of revision is another; modifying the template once modifies it for everybody. Plus, people creating documents from templates are far less likely to send out letters with incorrect names and dates as commonly occurs when saved files are recycled for sending to another recipient.

Ready to give workgroup templates a try? Here's how to do it.

Enabling Workgroup Templates is a two-part process. The first step is creation of a centralized folder on your LAN to hold the shared templates. For this you need the

help of your network administrator. At the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (PFR), our Information Systems Support Services created a folder on a network drive called, appropriately enough, Workgroup Templates. Users can create subfolders in the Workgroup Templates folder and can populate those subfolders with custom template documents.

Illustration 1 below is a Windows Explorer screenshot of the PFR Workgroup Templates folder. Within this folder are three subfolders reflecting the work of the complaint office here at PFR's Office of Licensing and Registration (OLR). Each subfolder contains a set of templates, such as the three flavors of preliminary license denial letter shown in the screenshot.

The important thing to remember is that each subfolder created inside the workgroup templates folder will appear as a separate folder tab in your users' Templates dialog box. So you want to give some thought as to what might be the most logical and concise organization of template subfolders within your unit's workgroup templates folder.

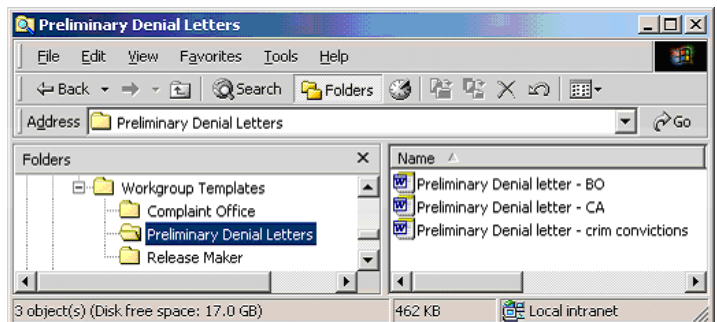


Illustration 1. Typical Workgroup Templates folder on a network drive

Your network administrator can also customize access privileges for workgroup templates if you wish. For example, you may want to establish separate workgroup template folders for different offices within your department. That way, employees would see only those templates that are relevant to their jobs. Through your administrator, you can prevent unauthorized or unintentional modification of the template files, control who can create new categories (i.e., subfolders) of workgroup templates, or control who can add new templates to the existing subfolders.

The second step in enabling workgroup templates is telling each user's copy of Office where on the LAN the workgroup templates folder is located. This task is best accomplished by your administrator on a centralized basis for all machines. That's it for setup.

From now on, when an authorized user selects File ➤ New from Word's menu bar, the Templates dialog box displays a separate tab for each subfolder that was created

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Workgroup Templates, cont.

inside the Workgroup Templates folder. You can see how this works in Illustration 2, which is a screenshot of the Templates dialog box on my PC. The template tabs named Complaint Office, Preliminary Denial Letters and Release Maker correspond to the like-named workgroup template subfolders shown in Illustration 1.

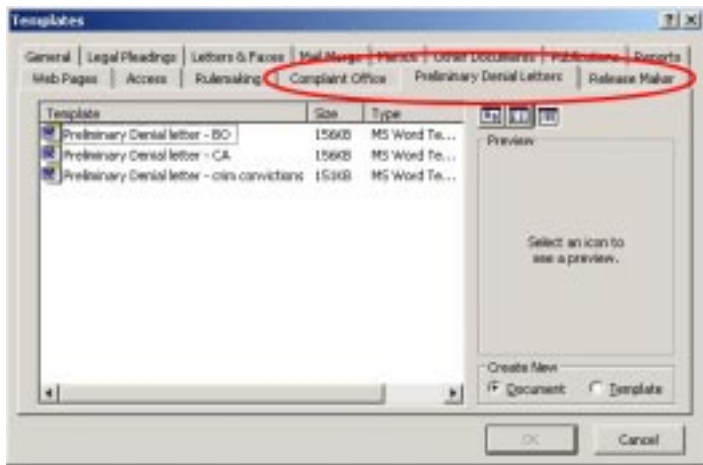



Illustration 2. Templates dialog box showing workgroup template tabs

Note that there is no tab named Workgroup Templates. The workgroup template subfolders simply take their place alongside all the local templates resident on a user's PC (or in that user's private folder on a network drive).

Is the trouble of setting up workgroup templates, training employees how to use them, and convincing employees that it's worth using them likely to result in productivity gains that justify the effort? The answer, of course, will vary from unit to unit. Now, what was the name of that band I was thinking of...

A Staff Attorney, at the Office of Licensing and Registration, Jeff lives in Windsor and reports that this is the first winter that has really been too cold for him. He may be reached by calling 207 624-8615 or e-mailing jeffrey.m.frankel@maine.gov.

Maine Water Conference 2004

Wednesday, April 21, 2004, 8am - 4pm, Augusta Civic Center

http://www.umaine.edu/waterresearch/mwc/agenda_04.htm Early registration (\$35) is suggested and is limited to 300 attendees. Both former Senator George Mitchell and Governor Baldacci are confirmed to speak at the morning plenary session. Governor Baldacci will discuss Maine's environmental legacies and future. Senator Mitchell will provide his perspectives as a staffer working for Senator Edmund Muskie on the Clean Water Act, and as an author of the Clean Air Act.

Be on the Lookout for Invasive Aquatic Plants


Put Simply, They're BAD News!

By PAUL GREGORY

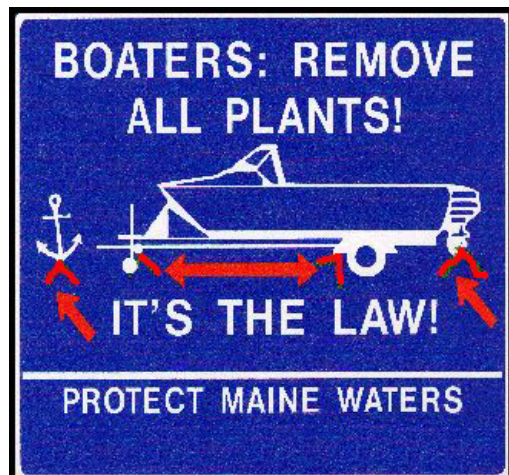
Habitat disruption, degraded native plant and animal communities, loss of property values, reduced fishing and water recreation opportunities, and large public/private expenditures have accompanied invasive plant introductions in all of the lower 48 states except Maine. However two invasive plants, **Variable-leaf Milfoil** and **Hydrilla**, have been spotted here. For more information, including photos of invasive plants and "how to report" instructions visit www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/index.htm.

Scientists are hardly high tech when it comes to the detection, prevention and control of invasive plants. Detection involves a pair of trained eyes and tools to enhance their ability to see underwater. Prevention calls for any eyes willing to inspect boats and trailers leaving boat ramps and then remove all hitchhiking plant debris. Control ranges from the simple hand removal of undesired aquatic plants from lake beds to the application of relatively selective herbicides.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has used only one herbicide in 2003, applying an active ingredient called fluridone that systemically prevents the ability of vascular plants - like Hydrilla- to photosynthesize food. Herbicide use has been traditionally frowned upon by the DEP because herbicide risks to lake ecosystems usually outweigh their benefits. That is until Hydrilla came along; left untreated, this most aggressive plant could rapidly devastate neighboring waters.

Invasive plant detection, prevention and control come with costs. That's why the Lake and River Protection Sticker ("Preserve Maine Waters") fund is so important. All motorized watercraft (including personal watercraft) on inland waters must display this sticker available from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's On-line Store www.informe.org/ifw/merc/. The fee for a non-resident sticker (required for boats registered outside Maine) is \$20. The fee for boats registered in Maine is \$10. The value of helping protect Maine lakes from invasive plants: priceless.

Questions?
Contact the author by e-mailing paul.gregory@maine.gov.



IFW's On-Line Store

By MARK LATTI

Since offering fishing licenses on-line nearly five years ago, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's (IFW) On-line Store has grown, and now offers not only licenses, but registrations, permit applications, clothing, books, CDs, videos and mugs.

Just point to your browser to www.mefishwildlife.com, and you can purchase your license, apply for a moose permit, or even purchase embroidered IFW logo merchandise, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As the popularity of the Internet has increased, so has the popularity of the store, as use has grown each year. Increasingly, those who like to hunt moose, deer or turkey have turned to IFW's on-line store to apply and purchase their permits. When the first permit application for hunting turkeys appeared on-line three seasons ago, approximately 10% of all who applied, applied on-line. This past summer, hunters were able to apply on-line for their Any Deer Permit, and a whopping 40% chose to do so.

While 40% certainly seems like a large number, it is even larger when you consider that over 90,000 people applied for an Any Deer permit, and before the advent of the on-line store, all those applications were entered into a computer by an IFW employee once they were received at IFW headquarters. The on-line store has eased the permit process for our data entry operators and made things more convenient for our customers.

We can also provide one-stop shopping for many customers. They can purchase their hunting and fishing licenses, register their snowmobile or ATV, and even shop for IFW t-shirts, vests, videos and more.

The IFW Merchandise program has taken off on-line. IFW sells quality

embroidered hats, t-shirts and fleece vests in a variety of sizes and styles. Customers get a great product, and the department uses the profits from these sales to fund conservation, educational, and promotional programs. During these tight budget times, this program has made a difference.

IFW offers these items at its headquarters in Augusta, but it's not always convenient to travel to Augusta to get the merchandise. The on-line store has made it more convenient for our customers, and it has also allowed our information center to concentrate on in-house information requests without having to juggle that with the needs of a customer. In-stock orders are shipped within 5 business days. Items that are out-of-stock, may take four to six weeks for delivery.

This past January, the department sold 113 pieces of merchandise, 3,266 licenses, 2,570 moose permit applications and 5,626 turkey permit applications via its on-line store. That is up from just 88 merchandise purchases in January of the previous year.

The on-line store at www.mefishwildlife.com has made a huge difference at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the department will continue to expand the services and products it offers on-line as quickly as possible. Check it out at www.mefishwildlife.com.

Questions? Contact the author by e-mailing mark.latti@maine.gov.

Address Spoofing and You

By BOB WITHAM

In last month's article "Spoof goes the weasel", I wrote on some of the very basic ways that address spoofing is accomplished, and a little on its effect on you as an individual. When someone spoofs your address as the from address of an e-mail, the recipient will assume that you actually sent the message. What if a spammer sends e-mails offering some service and uses your address as the from address? Remember, spammers are not really interested in you replying to them, only in you reading their message. What if that spammer is advertising a porn site, or other activity that you would not like to be associated with? At the very least, this could lead to personal embarrassment, and possible problems with associates who may not know that you really did not send such a message. Imagine the problem of explaining to your pastor, priest, or rabbi why you sent the porn e-mail. Just make sure you keep a copy of this article handy.

Another offshoot of spoofing that we are seeing has to do with anti-spam products. One of the ways that we fight spam is to subscribe to a service that blacklists known spammers. These services accept input from a variety of sources, relying on them to determine who is sending spam. If I subscribe to this service, I can send spam messages I have received to the service, and they will add the sender's name to a list. Once that sender's name shows up enough times from enough different sources, the domain (the portion of the address after the @) will be tagged by the service as a known spammer. For mail coming into the State of Maine e-mail system, such mail is tagged with a [sls_ADV?] tag. Domain names are also sometimes added to these lists because they are known to send viruses. By configuring your rules wizard under Microsoft Outlook tools, you can have such mail automatically deleted, or sent to a folder.

Now let's suppose someone that knows you is infected with a virus.

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


Most state parks offer on-line campground reservations. Learn more about each park, or select a park to check campsite availability, and start the reservation process by logging on to www.state.me.us/doc/parks/reservations/. Summer is coming!

Address Spoofing and You, cont.

That person's computer begins sending thousands of virus infected messages, or even messages that look like spam, across the Internet. Subscribers to these spam listing services (the sls in the sls_ADV tag), begin reporting your address as either sending viruses or spam. After enough people report your address, your domain is blocked. And believe me, it is not easy to get off these lists once you are on one. You generally need to do some really heavy duty proving to the list administrator that the offender has been removed from your domain or that you have taken steps to remove the spam. I would hope that these spam list administrators have wised up that viruses do spoof addresses. This same technique could be used by a determined individual intent on blocking all e-mail from a domain by spoofing spam that appears to originate from that domain.

A week or so ago, several people in Maine Revenue Services (MRS) noticed that mail messages from the IRS were being tagged with [sls_ADV?] tags and being deleted from their inbox. Whether this was the result of tagging due to a virus outbreak, spoofing, or some other reason, I do not know, and it is not really important. It did point out one of the problems we face due to spoofing of e-mail addresses. That of wrongly accusing someone of an activity they had nothing to do with.

There is good news on the horizon however. Microsoft and others are working on a redefinition of the standards under which e-mail is sent in an effort to remove the effect of spoofing the from address. They are looking at ways of ensuring that any e-mail message will be able to be tracked back to the actual machine that sent it. They are trying to ensure that no message will be sent by any server that does not have the appropriate originating address on it. This new standard is still a long way off however. Until then, beware the spoofers. 

Watching Water

By LYNETTE MILLER

According to the March 4 meeting of the River Flow Advisory Commission, flood potential was normal for the time of year, but ice potential was above normal. Curious about the flood potential on a river near you? Read on.

During flood season, technology and a variety of partners continuously watch Maine rivers. Near real time hydrologic data from the US Geological Survey (USGS) stream flow gages (<http://me.water.usgs.gov>) are used by the National Weather Service (NWS) to help predict the size and timing of river floods. These gages track river stage (height) and stream flow (in cubic feet per second) and transmit the data via satellite 24 hours a day.

To predict winter/spring flooding, it also is important to know how much water is contained in the snow pack. The Maine Cooperative Snow Survey (<http://www.state.me.us/mema/weather/snow.htm>), jointly run by the USGS and the Maine Geological Survey with the help of many cooperators, measures the amount of water in the snow pack in late winter and early spring on a weekly basis. NWS computer models then use the snow data along with stream flow to increase the accuracy of flood predictions. In addition, the USGS provides real-time temperature data for several sites.


The 24-hour web cam on the Kennebec River at Augusta, generously hosted by the Maine State Housing Authority, provides remote "eyewitness" observation of ice and water movement. It is operated by the USGS in conjunction with a real-time stage gage at Augusta's Father Curran Bridge. The web cam confirms the stages reported from the gages, and provides a unique real-time view of the ice as it progresses in the river. Started in 2001 as a pilot, this cam has been so popular it has never been removed!

This year, the USGS is testing a totally remote installation that pulls electricity from solar panels and sends its updates via cell phone. This technology will make it possible to place a web cam at any remote site, providing there is adequate cell phone coverage.

To monitor ice conditions on the

Kennebec, the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Army Corps of Engineers (CRREL) has placed ice motion detectors on the river in the Sidney-Augusta area. These devices trigger when ice movement occurs and place automated telephone calls to the National Weather Service and public safety agencies. Local officials can then begin on-site observation to watch for sudden changes in water level caused by ice jams. CRREL has provided this service since the removal of the Edwards Dam. Last year, the monitors tripped, and the web cam captured the formation and erosion of a massive ice jam in Augusta, all within 30 minutes!

Links to all the weather and observation sites can be found at www.maine.gov/rfac (click on "River Watch 2004"). The "River Watch" page will also lead you to sites full of flood preparedness and safety information.

The cooperation that marks all of these monitoring efforts happens under the auspices of the Maine River Flow Advisory Commission. The Commission, a model public-private partnership, is composed of representatives from state and federal agencies, major river basin management operations, and the University of Maine. It is co-chaired by the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA, Art Cleaves) and the District Chief of the USGS (Bob Lent). The Commission usually meets only once a year. Members share information and ideas with a shared goal: to provide the best possible hydrologic data as a basis for decision-making, whether tracking floods or drought, water quantity or quality. 

Lynette Miller is a Director of Special Projects, at MEMA, within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. She may be reached at 626-4503, or via e-mail at lynette.c.miller@maine.gov.

New SafetyWorks! Website

By MARION BOWMAN

SafetyWorks! is a program of the Maine Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Standards which provides materials and services to help businesses improve workplace safety and health.

The Bureau of Labor Standards recently received a grant to help them reach out to meet the safety information needs of very small businesses. A modern website was considered an important part of this outreach, since many small businesses owners and employees often cannot spare the time or expense to come to classes which are offered regularly throughout the state (<http://www.safetyworksmaine.com/training/index.html>). They want and need safety information via the web.



From the left: Pattie Page, Lynne Lamstein, Adrien Polky, and Rachel Newman

To create this new website, the Bureau formed a team in September (composed of Pattie Page, Lynne Lamstein, Adrien Polky, and Rachel Newman) which contracted with InforMe for the web design. The criteria used for the web redesign was based upon customers needs and information gathered from focus groups. The team hopes that the site's attractive design and easy navigation will help Maine's businesses access information and services aimed at preventing injuries and illnesses at work. Services are free and confidential.

Check out the new SafetyWorks! site at <http://www.safetyworksmaine.com/>. It provides practical solutions to help make workplaces safer and healthier. In addition it offers free:

- onsite safety audits,
- air and noise sampling,
- safety training,
- video library, and
- monthly safety tips.

TRANSITIONS

TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL CHANGES IN YOUR AGENCY?

SEND NOTICES TO mary.cloutier@maine.gov TO HAVE THEM POSTED HERE.

Gordon Leitch, a Systems Analyst with the Bureau of Information Services' Development Services' MFASIS Budget Project Office, resigned from state government service effective March 16, 2004.

The team also created a postcard mail campaign (with the assistance of Brenda Evans from the department's Publication Unit) using MS:Publisher to help advertise the newly upgraded web site, which went on-line in February. (The team printed 10,000 cards at a cost of \$1,000 for the very creative advertising campaign) Well done!

Questions? Comments? Contact SafetyWorks! by calling 207-624-6400 or toll-free 1-877-SAFE-345 (1-877-723-3345) or e-mailing general.bls-safetyworks@maine.gov. You may also contact the program via TTY: 1-800-794-1110 or by writing them at 45 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333

© DID YOU KNOW?

Falls are the leading cause of deaths in and around the house and worksite?

The Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service recently created an on-line course for SafetyWorks! (complete with quiz and certificate) on ladder safety. Check it out <http://www.ipsitech.org/dol/laddersafety/>

A screenshot of a banner for the "Ladder Safety" online course. It features the SafetyWorks! logo, a picture of a ladder, and a cartoon character falling. Text on the banner includes: "Brought to you by SafetyWorks!, a program of the Maine Department of Labor", "Approximately 30,000 people yearly are injured (some permanently) from ladder falls.", "This course will help you learn how to use ladders safely and avoid getting hurt. The information presented here does not replace the OSHA requirements for ladder safety.", "To begin, click on the toolbox to read tips on how to use this site and earn a 'Certificate of Completion.'", and navigation links: "Credits", "Test-only version", "Site map", "Contact Us".

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